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NOTES FROM A TRANSPLANTED BADGER<sup>1</sup>

I appreciate very much the honour you propose for me in making me a life member of the Wisconsin Historical Society and I value at a much higher rate the kindness which prompts the action. You enquire about degrees. After receiving the degree of B.A. in the University of Manitoba I attended Cornell University and obtained the degree of M.A. We have an historical society here but I regret to say that it is in a rather moribund condition. More's the pity because there is an enormous amount of historical material to be gathered here and of the very highest value. I have always tried to keep the interest alive in our schools particularly by means of our Empire Day publications, copies of which you have seen. I have for some time been thinking of a sketch of the life and work of Prince Rupert—often slightly spoken of as a mere dashing cavalry leader, swashbuckler, soldier of fortune, and all that kind of thing. As a matter of fact he was the best of the Stuart princes. He could not say witty things like his scapegrace clever nephew Charles II and he was not so learned as that poor old pedant, his grandfather, but he could tell the truth and live a clean life and steer a straight course generally which were accomplishments not much in vogue at that time. In fact our whole Canadian history is full of immensely interesting characters which ought to be written up and I wish there were more time for it. There is no interest which means more to me in the whole range of intellectual life and effort than the historical interest and I shall greatly enjoy getting into touch with historical work in Wisconsin.

I said yesterday in writing a letter of Christmas greeting \* \* \* that this Christmas is perhaps the strangest we have ever known. Since the fall of the Roman Empire civilization has not been in such grave danger as during the last four years. It is a great deliverance and that means joy to millions—and it has been at a fearful cost. There is hardly a home in Canada that is not affected nearly or more remotely. So that there is an unusual mixture of sorrow and happiness in this Christmas.

<sup>1</sup> Written by Sidney E. Lang, of Winnipeg, to his uncle, Robert B. Lang, of Racine, December 22, 1918.